

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-3 are withdrawn from consideration. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kowalewski (U.S. Patent No. 3,249, 909).

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the election without traverse of Group II (claims 4 and 5) in the Amendment of July 18, 2001.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. To support this rejection, the Examiner states that in claim 5, lines 1 and 2, "the sheathed wire side" lacks antecedent basis, and, in line 3, "the same" lacks antecedent basis.

In response, Applicant amends claim 5, as indicated herein.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kowalewski.

Applicant respectfully argues that Kowalewski does not teach or suggest "a part of the fusiform molded portion is flush with a part of the terminal fitting," as recited in amended claim 4, and incorporated by reference in claim 5. Further, since Kowalewski discloses a plug for the wall socket, it is impractical to deform the member 22 of Kowalewski into the shape described in

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amended claim 4. Therefore, for at least this reason, Applicant submits that claims 4 and 5 are patentably distinguishable over Kowalewski.

- Claim 6 is added by this amendment. This claim specifies that the fusiform molded portion has a plurality of parallel alternate concave grooves and convex ribs formed thereon.

Kowalewski does not disclose this feature, but instead shows a smooth, or flat, molded portion.

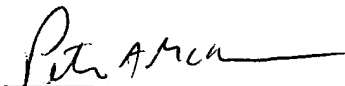
Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. In view of the foregoing, the claims are now believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

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Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX ✓

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification is changed as follows:

Page 1, first full paragraph:

Generally, in a case of a sheathed wire, its front end is stripped to expose conductors therein, and stripped or bare conductors are connected to an electric part or to machinery through a terminal fitting which is crimped by ~~such as~~ caulking. Being left to be bare as it is after crimping, a water content goes into the sheathed wire owing to capillary phenomenon. For avoiding this, the terminal connecting portion including the bare conductors is protected by various covering means for waterproofing.

Page 2, second full paragraph:

The sheathed wire 7 does not require the waterproofing treatment at a part having length extending rearwards from the terminal fitting 8, and so this part should be projected outside of the die. With respect to this projecting part of the sheathed wire 7, for the molten molding resin 6 not to flow out therefrom, the molding part 4 is closed at one side with an elastic lid plate 9 such as a rubber material. The elastic lid plate 9 is of an upper and lower division type composed of an upper part 9a and a lower part 9b, and the sheathed wire 7 of a part around said projection is elastically held vertically.

Page 5, full paragraph 3:

Preferably, the most narrowed portions of the narrowed portions define an aperture having a diameter which is substantially ~~as the~~ same as a diameter of the sheathed wire.

Page 7, second full paragraph:

The terminal fitting 20 has a connecting part 21 formed to be flat at the front portion, and as seen in Fig. 4, a bolt 3 is passed through an opening at a central part of the connection 21, so that the terminal fitting 20 serves as a ground line in a vehicle body. The ~~connection~~ connecting part 21 is formed to be caulking parts 23, 24 at the rear part for crimping to the bare conductors 11 to caulk the bare conductors 11.

Page 7, fourth full paragraph:

The molding die 40 comprises an upper mold 41 and a lower mold 42, which are provided at interior matching parts with a molding part 43 being a molding cavity. The molding die 40 has a runner channel 44 of an injecting gate for injecting ~~to pour~~ the molten molding resin shown with reference numeral "30" in the molding part 43. The molding part 43 faces the outside of the die at its one side, and this one side is closed with elastic lid plates 9a, 9b vertically opposite with respect to the upper mold 41 and the lower mold 42, said one side having been shown in Fig. 6 of the related example. The elastic lid plates 9a, 9b are held by respective clamps 47, 48.

Page 7, fifth full paragraph:

Fig. 2B is a vertically cross sectional view seen from the Y-Y line of Fig. 2A. At said one side of the molding part 43 facing the elastic lid plates 9a, 9b, radiating fins 45, 46 are defined which are elements of the invention. That is, said one side of the molding part 43 is formed at an inner part thereof with a tapered shape dividing into the upper mold 41 and the lower mold 42, and the tapered slope is formed with the radiating fins 45, 46 having a plurality of parallel alternate concave grooves and convex ribs. Diameters at front ends of a tapered hole formed with the radiating fins 45, 46 have sizes for the sheathed wire 10 being able to pass therethrough.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

4. (Twice Amended) A terminal ~~connecting portion~~ structure of a sheathed wire, comprising:

a terminal fitting;

a terminal connecting portion at which the terminal fitting and a bare conductor of the sheathed wire are connected; and

a fusiform molded portion which covers and waterproofs the terminal connecting portion in which a terminal fitting and a bare conductor of the sheathed wire are connected with each other, wherein a part of the fusiform molded portion is flush with a part of the terminal fitting.

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5. (Amended) The terminal ~~connecting portion structure~~ as set forth in claim 4, wherein a thickness of ~~the~~ a sheathed wire side of the fusiform molded portion is continuously reduced such that an end portion thereof has a same dimension ~~the same~~ as a diameter of the sheathed wire.

Claim 6 is added as a new claim.

6. (New) The terminal structure as set forth in claim 4, wherein the fusiform molded portion has a plurality of parallel alternate concave grooves and convex ribs formed thereon.